REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 3-5, 11 and 13-16 were amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Spray-pyrolysis or spray-drying plant according to Claims 1 ~~and 2~~, characterized in that the reaction tube consists of a porous material which is heat-resistant up to 1200°C and which has a pore diameter of from 1 to 5 µm.

4. (Amended) Spray-pyrolysis or spray-drying plant according to Claims 1 ~~and 2~~, characterized in that heat-resistant, porous material consists of heat-resistant metal alloys or suitable ceramic materials.

5. (Amended) Spray-pyrolysis or spray-drying plant according to Claims 1 ~~and 2~~, characterized in that the reaction tube consists of heat-resistant sintered metal, metal mesh or metal non-woven media.

11. (Amended) Process according to Claims ~~9 and 10~~, characterized in that the wall of the reaction tube is cooled constantly during the exothermic reaction by the gas passing through from the outside.

13. (Amended) Process according to Claims ~~9 to 12~~, characterized in that additional process energy is supplied by burning a gas with an oxidant, where either
the air is supplied from the outside via the jacket connector (5) and the gas is added from the inside via gas connectors and inlet slots (6) and (7), or
the gas is added from the outside (5) and the air is added from the inside via gas connectors and inlet slots (6) and (7), or
the air supplied via the jacket connector (5) is electrically heated, flows through the porous wall and reacts exothermically with the stream of fuel gas added via the gas connector and inlet slots (6) and (7) and increases the reaction temperature.

14. (Amended) Process according to Claims ~~9 to 13~~, characterized in that powder materials having an average particle size of from 0.1 to 10μm are obtained.

15. (Amended) Process according to Claims ~~9 to 14~~, characterized in that the powder materials obtained do not comprise hard agglomerates.

16. (Amended) Process according to Claims ~~9 to 14~~, characterized in that the molecular weight fraction of any desired component of the powder material obtained differs by a maximum of 1.5% compared with the corresponding molecular weight fraction in the precursor solution, based on the corresponding molecular weight fraction in the precursor solution.